



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 10/27/2004

**GAIN Report Number:** PO4023

## Portugal

## Biotechnology

## Voluntary

## 2004

**Approved by:**

Steve Hammond  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Leonor Ramos

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Government of Portugal is preparing co-existence legislation. If ultimately passed as currently drafted, the legislation would likely dampen Portuguese farmer interest in planting genetically modified (GM) seeds. (LR5SH2)

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Madrid [SP1]  
[PO]

## Executive Summary

The Crop Protection General Directorate (DGPC) of the Ministry of Agriculture and the corn growers association (ANPROMIS) have jointly drafted an Order in Council (Portaria) and a document on technical cultivation standards for GM-crops. Members of the Technical Council of the DGPC, the Ministry's food quality and inspection services, producer organizations and the seed industry, have until November 24, 2004 to comment. DGPC plans to complete its review by the end of November 2004, and publish the National Order in the Official Journal by December 2004. DGPC also plans to hold a press conference to announce the co-existence regulation in January 2005.

The proposed coexistence legislation would minimize/preclude adventitious corn contamination through pollen or mechanical means from seed storage to first-buyer crop delivery. Examples in the proposed legislation include: 1) Establishing a 50-meter minimum between GM corn and conventional varieties and a 200-meter minimum between GM and organically grown corn; 2) Requiring that 12 conventional-variety rows be planted (around the GM corn) and harvested with and as GM corn, and 25 rows where organically-grown conventional varieties are produced; (3) Requiring staggered planting, or the planting of dissimilar pollination cycle varieties in lieu of to the previously mentioned buffering measures; and, (4) Setting strict planting, harvesting, drying, storage, and delivery procedures to preclude commingling.

We are hearing that some in Government have already decided to propose even stiffer requirements, including, among other ideas, an increase in the standard buffer zones from 50-to-200 meters, where GM and traditional varieties are co-located. An increase of this type would surely preclude GM plantings in Portugal.